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Press Item for the DCI

Date: 28 Sep
Item: No. 19
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*file
Cuba*

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UPI-106

ADD 1 CUBAN BASE, WASHINGTON (UPI-99)
SEN. FRANK CHURCH, D-IDA., SAID HE WAS ARRANGING A CLOSED
HEARING FOR THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTRUCTION
OF A POSSIBLE SOVIET SUBMARINE BASE IN CUBA.
CHURCH SAID HE WAS ASKING THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO TESTIFY.
CHURCH IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE
AFFAIRS. HE SAID THE HEARING WAS NECESSARY "BECAUSE OF MOUNTING
CONCERN THAT SHIPPING AND CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THIS AREA MAY HAVE
A MILITARY PURPOSE INVOLVING THE RUSSIANS."

9/28--MB225PED

Comment. Adds to referent item. Maury has a copy.

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These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office
of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.

News Release from

FRANK CHURCH



U.S. SENATOR, IDAHO

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1970

WASHINGTON, September 28. -- Following is the text of remarks of Senator Frank Church in the U.S. Senate today announcing that Church's Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs will hold hearings at an early date on reported construction of a Soviet submarine base in Cuba:

HEARINGS ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

"As Chairman of the Senate's Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs, I have called for a special briefing, to which all members of the full Committee on Foreign Relations will be invited, as soon as arrangements are made, the purpose of which will be to obtain all available facts concerning the reported construction of the possible Soviet Submarine base at Cienfuegos Bay on Cuba's southern coast.

"Because of mounting concern that shipping and construction work in this area may have a military purpose involving the Russians, a special hearing with the best informed members of the Executive Branch should be held without delay, in order that Senators may receive a full and detailed exposition of all particulars.

"In October 1962, the American public learned, after the fact, of Soviet missile bases being installed on Cuban soil. The resultant crisis brought the world closer than it has ever been, before or since, to a nuclear holocaust. That is why I am asking the State Department, Pentagon and CIA to testify in Executive Session with the request that a full disclosure be made of all intelligence information now in possession of the Government on what could be a potentially serious development. If necessary, we must act in timely fashion, if we are to avoid the kind of nuclear showdown that occurred eight years ago."
